

From: [REDACTED]
To: [A303 Stonehenge](#)
Cc: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE@dft.gov.uk
Subject: For the attention of the A303 Stonehenge Case Team.
Date: 09 December 2021 15:43:00
Attachments: [STONEHENGE LETTER.doc](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have received an email from Susan Anderson at the Department for Transport inviting me to resubmit a letter I sent to the Transport Secretary in November 2020 in regard to the plan announced to construct a tunnel under the Stonehenge site for the A.303. As that plan has now been quashed by the High Court, I will send you my opinion about the proposal, which has not changed so the attached letter is the exact same wording I used before.

I hope the planning inspectorate and all parties involved in deciding this long-running and virtually impossible situation relating to a World Heritage Site and a major highway will have sufficient input to make a final, wise decision that saves the potential waste of huge amounts of tax-payers money, satisfies the most important considerations and ends this interminable debate about an old pile of rocks and a busy road passing near them!

Yours faithfully,

Roger W. Mundy, B.Sc

Retired Geography teacher

STONEHENGE LETTER

16 NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Mr. Shapps,

I'm writing to you as you are currently the transport secretary, but would be grateful if you could forward this email to the transport select committee. I was interested to hear on the news a few days ago that a plan has now been approved to build a tunnel to carry the A.303 through the section where it passes Stonehenge. I have regularly driven that road as I visit my Devon relatives and friends quite often, so I'm aware of the traffic issues and have crawled past the monument myself at times in a summer Saturday queue! These days I choose other times to travel as I am retired and have no problem in cruising by the monument, which I'm happy to view from the road rather than pay to walk around a fence that's not much nearer anyway!

As a retired Geography teacher, the problem has interested me for some time and I have personally thought that a 5-mile by-pass running from the dual-carriageway hill just west of Amesbury and taking a route approximately three-quarters of a mile south of the current road, then rejoining the A.303 a mile west of Winterbourne Stoke would be a better solution, thereby solving three problems: taking traffic noise and pollution away from Stonehenge; by-passing the bottle neck at Winterbourne Stoke and avoiding the disturbance to other archaeological sites, which a tunnel is certain to do. However, I've changed my mind recently, in view of the enormous cost and disruption either scheme would entail, particularly in the light of the current crisis when the government has been forced to build up a huge debt that will have to be paid for by several generations to come.

So I propose a radical solution, which is simply to do nothing! Stonehenge has withstood whatever climatic or human impacts it has endured for over 5000 years, so could we not wait a few more to allow the development of electric vehicles (both cars and heavy duty lorries) to largely remove the current problems of traffic noise and pollution? Added to this, requirements could be put in place to only allow lorry traffic that has to use the A.303 (e.g. for access to the Solstice Business Park at Amesbury) to pass this way and all through traffic between the south-east and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall be required to use the M.4/M.5 corridor. This would also have the advantage of reducing traffic problems further west in the Ilminster and Blackdown Hills area. It's important to look at the bigger picture of traffic movement rather than simply the local problem at Stonehenge.

I often return from Devon via the motorways, having visited friends near Barnstaple and it's always quicker than the A.303, which I drive down more for the scenery and memories than to save time! Besides, I'm not that interested in a 5000-year-old monument of large stones (however cleverly the people of the time transported and constructed them), especially as it simply draws many to a pagan festival of sun worship once a year. I would rather visit the far more magnificent Exeter Cathedral, which I do most years, and pray in a place that's dedicated to the glory of the true God!

Yours sincerely,

Roger Mundy, B.Sc

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